

**Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs  
February 20, 2008  
Meeting Summary**

**Attendance:**

**Commissioners**

Yolanda Maria Welch, Chair  
Hector G. Manzano  
Nicolas H. Ramos, V  
Sonia E. Mora  
Richard Cook  
Maria Tezanos Pinto Johnson  
Arelis A. Pérez  
Mariana Cordier  
Elizabeth C. Bellavance  
Elizabeth Ysla Leight  
Jessy P. Mejia  
Ricardo Martinez  
Luisa Montero-Diaz  
Ricardo Alberto Flores  
Christina M. Diaz-Malone  
Lydia Espinosa Crafton  
Colonel Roberto L. Hylton

**GOCI Staff**

Izzy Patoka, Executive Director  
Tony Bridges, Director of Outreach  
Carmen E. Pratt, Executive Coordinator  
Tony White, GOCI Communications  
Rachel Index, GOCI Legislative  
Angela Bernstein, GOCI  
Ruby Stemmler, Executive Director GCHA

**Ex-Officio**

Lilly Cubano, Ex-Officio, DHMH  
Carmen E. Pratt, Ex-Officio, DHR  
Jorge Austrich, Ex-Officio, DBED

**VIP Guests**

Secretary Tom Perez, DLLR  
State Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez  
State Delegate Victor Ramirez  
State Delegate Joseline Peña-Melnyk  
Jeanett Ortiz, Policy Director, Office of the Lt. Governor  
Francis Mendez, DJS  
Carl Reavis, DLLR  
Adam Ortiz, DLLR

**Summary:**

- Pre-meeting reception for Hispanic elected officials, state level appointees and other Hispanic officials from across Maryland.
- Chair Maria Welch opened the meeting and introduced special guests and visiting officials

- Secretary Tom Perez gave the key note address which discussed Governor O'Malley's agenda for the Latino community and highlighted the New Americans Initiative
- GOCI Executive Director Izzy Patoka explained the role and structure of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives and highlighted the key elements of the Executive Order that put the Governor's Commission on Hispanic Affairs under GOCI.
- GCHA Executive Director Ruby Stemmler presented an overview of GCHA recent activities and reported on best practices learned at the conference of US Commissions Coalition at the US Hispanic Leadership Institute in Chicago. Accordingly a website subcommittee and an annual report subcommittee were informally created. Based on a preliminary vote conducted via email the commission selected the dates of April 4-5 for an overnight meeting to develop the Commission's strategic plan.
- GOCI Legislative Director Rachel Indek gave brief update of the Maryland State legislative agenda.
- GOCI Communication Director Tony White introduced guidelines for communication with GOCI and Maryland State Officials.
- Chair Maria Welch concluded the meeting and announced the date of the next meeting April 16, 2008.